7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal



278 this induced them to make uſe of it. This
825 animal thus gave them their firſt leſſon in botany and pharmacy. It is ſaid however, that the bear cures all his wounds with this root. If this be true, it is natural to ſuppoſe that human beings would find it very ſerviceable: but as I have never had occaſion to make the experiment, I can only ſpeak from report.

177 The Chriſtian religion was introduced
771 into this country by the Ruſſians; but the
793 inhabitants appear to know little more of it than the ceremony of baptiſm. They are ignorant of the very firſt principles of Chriſtianity. Slaves to their inclinations, they follow their impulſe whether good or bad. If they think of religion, it is merely from a motive of convenience or intereſt, or when particular circumſtances compel them to it. This proves how very defective their inſtruction is, and reflects in my opinion

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal


upon the clergy, whoſe buſineſs it is to enlighten their ignorance. But are theſe clerical miſſionaries ſufficiently informed themſelves? They have no opportunity it muſt be acknowledged for profound ſtudy, and probably it is not required of them, as it is common enough to ſee a Kamtſchadale admitted to this dignified office.

These popes are all under the authority of a protapope, or high prieſt, reſident at Nijenei, and he again is ſubordinate to the archbiſhop of Irkoutſk, who alone ordains and appoints the clergy to their cures, ſo that they are all obliged to reſort to this ſettlement. The length and perils of the journey are conſidered perhaps as a kind of initiation; and without any other merit or examination, they probably receive holy orders: it is certain they return neither wiſer nor better. Theſe divines are then ſent to their places of deſtination; the time

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal



793/177 time they continue is not limited, and depends on the will of their chiefs.

794 There are eight principal churches in Kamtſchatka: Paratounka, Bolcheretſk, Jchinſk, Tiguil, Vercknei, Klutchefskaïa, and two at Nijenei; to theſe may be added the church of Ingiga, in the country of the Koriacs.

The diſtrict or pariſh of Paratounka includes ſeven oſtrogs and the Kurilles iſlands; viz. the oſtrog of the ſame name, Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Koriaki, Natchikin, Apatchin, Malkin, and Bolcheretſk. The number of pariſhioners contained in theſe oſtrogs, does not exceed four hundred; and including the Kurilles iſlands, the general calculation is not more than ſix hun-
793 dred and twenty Chriſtians. The rector of Paratounka is allowed by the empreſs a

ſalary

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal


793 ſalary of eighty roubles, and twenty *pouds** of rye flour. His pariſhioners of conſequence, pay no tythes; but he receives alms and other caſual emoluments attached to his church. For a marriage, a chriſtening, or a burial, theſe prieſts demand whatever they pleaſe. There is no regulation in this reſpect, and every thing is governed ſolely by their caprice, which occaſions conſiderable impoſitions and abuſes. In general however, they endeavour to proportion their demands to the abilities of their pariſhioners, a diſcretion that is entitled to applauſe.

651 R 177 .65 The Kamtſchadales are free. They are ſubject only to an annual tribute to Ruſſia, which conſiſts, as I have already ſaid, in various kinds of furs; ſo that the produce of their chace, turns almoſt entirely to the

* A Ruſſian weight equal to about thirty-three pounds.

advantage

7:Lesseps T-3 (1787-88)1790 Kamchadal



000 over the remembrance of all the pleaſures of the day.

The next day I was invited to the houſe of the protapope, uncle to the bride, where the entertainment was ſimilar to that of the
177 preceding one, except the fire-work. I have
793 already obſerved, that the protapope is chief of all the churches in Kamtſchatka. The clergy throughout the peninſula are ſubordinate to him, and he has the deciſion of all eccleſiaſtical affairs. His reſidence is at Nijenei. He is an old man, not entirely deprived of his vigour, with a long white beard which flows down upon his breaſt and gives him a truly venerable appearance. His converſation is ſenſible, ſprightly, and calculated to gain him the reſpect and affection of the people.

177 There are two tribunals at Nijenei, one
692 that concerns the governments, and the other takes

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1826 Kamchadal



231 go along, an annoying habit of which it was impossible to break them. Their ordinary load is from six to seven pood.[1]

133 361 491 It was not long before the presence of some large poplars ahead, combined with certain whiffs of decaying fish, to which no description can do justice, warned us that we were in the neighbourhood of a river; and the howls of sledge-dogs presently greeted us as we arrived at the settlement of Gunal. We found some of the inhabitants engaged in making a bridge,—really a very creditable affair, as the river here is about twenty-five yards broad, with a channel some six feet or more in depth. Above the village this stream—the Bolchaia-reka, or Great Bolcheresk River—splits into two or three branches, which reunite a quarter of a mile lower, after having received two rapid, but shallow little affluents from the west.

144 161 177 361 771 793 Gunal is a most picturesquely-situated little hamlet of about twenty huts, and has a population of ninety-four souls, who are all, without exception, the descendants of Russians who established themselves here with Kamschatdale wives in the last century. The latter people are now rare as a pure race, excepting upon the western side of the peninsula. The Gunalians are all Christians, and have built themselves a church,—a small log-cabin surmounted with a cross. Within the same enclosure, but separate, just as in Northern Sweden, is a little belfry with a single bell, time-worn and defaced. Owing to its inaccessibility, we were unable to read the inscription with which it was adorned. The church is parsonless. There are but three popes for the whole of the vast district lying between Petropaulovsky and the mouth of the Kamschatka River. Here the nearest is at Melcova, a hundred versts or more away; and once in every four months he comes in, marries and buries such of his parishioners as need it, holds service, and departs. He has not much to do, for the people are both apathetic and long-lived. In the little churchyard hard by there were scarcely twenty graves. They were marked by Russian crosses with a little

[1] A pood is equal to 36 lbs. English.

22: Guillemard T-2 (1882) 1886 Kamchadal



000 flood at one of their ancient burial-places,—a treasure that I joyfully accepted.[1]

We had taken up our quarters at the house of the head-man, and on my return thither I found that the pope had arrived to pay us a visit. His appearance was not prepossessing, and unkempt hair, a very fully-developed squint, and a total absence of conversation rendered him decidedly uninteresting as a companion. But he brought us two remarkably fine cabbages as a present, for
563 which unaccustomed luxury we felt very grateful. We learnt
793 that there were only nine priests or popes in the whole of
R Kamschatka. Like the doctors, they are paid by the Government,
177 but they also receive tithes in kind from the people. They come
. 79 for the most part from Siberia, and socially rank little, if at all, above the peasantry. This gentleman, for example, had married the sister of one of the horse-boys we had brought with us from Petropaulovsky to Sherowmy, who had been sable-hunting with Jacof Ivanovitch at the Kronotsky Lake during the preceding
000 winter. We called on her to thank her for the present, and found her a homely litttle woman with a much larger fund of conversation than her husband. On leaving the house a grey-bearded old man rushed out upon me, seized and kissed my hand, embraced me, patted me on the back, and poured out a torrent of unintelligibility which led me to the extremely English conclusion that he was drunk. I had wronged him. Afanasi was at hand, and gave me a *précis* rendering of his speech. He was merely expressing his delight at meeting with a European traveller!

The doctor had arrived to pay us another farewell visit when I again reached our house. We had many attractions for him; some of them in bottle. Poor old fellow; his sorrow at parting with us was too much for him, and when we turned round and discovered the Hennessey at the lowest ebb, it gave us almost pain to have to sign to Louis to remove it.

[1] *Vide* "Journal Anthrop. Inst.," Vol. xvi., No. 1, p. 21.

24: Lansdell--638 M-2 (1879) 1882 Kamchadal
116, 177, 793

"I saw, at Khabarofka, and on the steamer, another Kamchatdale, of less presentable appearance, a cleric, wearing his hair in a queue, perhaps for convenience in travel. He was taken, as a boy of 10 years old, to Irkutsk to be educated; afterwards sent to be minister in a church in Russian America, and subsequently became priest of Okhotsk. He is now near Blagovestchensk, and when I saw him was sick. He looked a poor miserable creature, and was pointed out to me by Baron Stackelberg, of whom he had openly asked an alms, as 'ce pauvre diable.' He appeared much pleased with some books I gave him, but was altogether about the poorest specimen of a priest I saw in Russia."

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal



181 the extreme of oppression from neglect and mal-
435 administration, for one hundred and twenty years, should not have become wiser and more economical in their habits; on the contrary, one might suppose they were a people but yesterday discovered. They will part with the most valuable furs for a trifling article, or a glass of spirits.

177 I need say nothing of their superstitions, as they
793 are nearly at an end. They now place as much re-
756 liance upon the efforts of the priests, as they formerly did on their shamanes, with this difference only, that to the latter they give many furs, while to the former they only gave a hearty meal.

183 Of laws they have but few of their own, their
554 motto being something like that of the Chinese,
692 " to return evil for evil, and good for good." At
R present they await the arrival of the Chief, of an
177 Officer, or of a Commissary, with a great deal of
.69 ceremony, giving him the best lodging, and acknowledging, if I may so say, his supremacy. Formerly, it appears, they lived in a perfect state of equality and independence of each other, age and expertness in hunting alone being held in estimation or respect.

177 The Kamtchatdales are now supplied with culi-
181 nary utensils and every thing they can require by the Russians; and as they live exactly in the same manner, and in the same description of houses with the latter, I need only refer my readers to an account of a Russian village; in their outward ap-

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal



177 pearance there is no difference whatever. They
181 seem a race disburthened of all care and consideration for the future, and entirely resigned to any fate which may await them, whether it be oppression or starvation.

177 In my opinion, and I speak it most sincerely, the
771 aborigines have not derived much benefit from the
793 conquest of their country by the Russians, as even their conversion to Christianity has done little other good, than entitled them to the name of Christians. The great number of priests and deacons (twenty-six in number) would, I presume, suggest an expectation of more learning and piety in this part of the world than in other semi-barbarous places; but really I have never seen any good effects from the labours of these reverend gentlemen. Certainly there is no population corresponding to the number of
161 ecclesiastics, as will appear on considering that the
231 whole Kamtchatdale population does not exceed,
563 male and female, two thousand seven hundred and sixty, while their dogs amount to two thousand two hundred and eight. The number of Russians is one thousand two hundred and sixty. The inhabitants north of Tygil and Nishney Kamtchatks, are four hundred and ninety-eight, while in the Koriak villages there are one hundred souls; making a population of four thousand five hundred and seventy-four, men, women, and children, Rus-
162 sians, Kamtchatdales and Koriaks. Whether the original population has not decreased in a surpris-

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal



563 cial fairs to be held upon a certain day at certain
793 places. Among the people who also travel round
759 the peninsula of Kamtchatka are doctors and par-
661 sons. They are both extremely troublesome, for while the one affects to prepare the soul, and the other the body, both I believe are more concerned in fleecing the thoughtless aboriginal, and in depriving him of the means of support.

177 The quantity of convicts sent amongst a people
563 so susceptible of imposition is also a serious grievance. The convicts, as Russians, have an indirect ascendancy over the Kamtchatdales, which is exercised in a most intolerant and infamous manner. The convicts frequently desert, and commit every species of villany and outrage, even to the fomenting of insurrections. This was the case during my stay in the peninsula; nor are the Kamtchatdales so dull, but that they remember Count Beniofsky
000 with horror. If the government of Russia really feel interested in the prosperity of Kamtchatka, and I don't doubt it, they have an easy mode of effecting it, by transplanting thither two or three thousand Yakuti, with their cattle. They are an industrious, ingenious, and peaceable people; and, being excellent herdsmen, they could not, of course, but thrive in a country of such extensive and rich pastures.

I cannot refrain from mentioning what appears to me a most desirable plan of administering a direct, and yet in-expensive relief to these poor people: Let the yasack be totally abolished, and let

29:Cochrane T-2(1821-22)1824 Kamchadal



231 overflowing of the rivers. My reason is, that no enclosure is to be found upon the land side, but only on the borders of the rivers, and small streams, and there they are perfect; and we are generally informed that the Kamtchatdales possessed no other domestic animals than dogs.

Before entirely closing these remarks respecting Kamtchatka, and its grievances, I may just advert 563 to one or two points not hitherto dwelt on. The 793 children of the natives receive no education, and 871 the children of the Russians but little more. There R certainly is a school existing in St. Peter and St. 177 Paul's, governed by a priest, and regular school- .87 master; but one is a great rogue, and the other a greater sot. The sum allowed for the maintenance of each child is, I believe, five pounds per annum, scarcely enough to buy clothing, and were it not for the abundance of fish caught, and some assistance from their families, I really do not see 563 how the boys could be kept alive. Of the clerical 793 gentlemen themselves, I may observe, that they R maintain a great distinction between practice and 177 precept. They are very numerous: I know not what .79 so many do in so poor a place, there being no congregations to employ so great a number. The revenue received by these reverend gentlemen is far from inconsiderable, and although it is done under the disguise of voluntary contribution, still it presses heavy upon the people; and heavier still when it is considered that they do little work of any kind be-

29:Cochrane T-2 (1821-22) 1824 Kamchadal


563 sides trade. Of late the Emperor has given the cler-
793 gy an allowance of flour as well as a regular salary,
R and it may therefore be hoped that the natives will,
177 at least, be so far benefited as to have fewer of their
. 79 visits, except on their spiritual concerns.

000 Whether the Russian government will pay any attention to the serious and deplorable situation of the peninsula of Kamtchatka is of no personal consequence to me, though I may well feel a strong interest concerning a place in which I resided for more than a year, and where I married. The ceremony was attended with much more pomp and parade than if it had been celebrated in England: it took place on the 8th of January, and I certainly am the first Englishman that ever married a Kamtchatdale, and my wife undoubtedly the first native of that peninsula that ever visited happy Britain.

The winter was passed in a constant round of hospitality and comfort, and hardly any thing re-
133 markable occurred to call for observation. Three shocks of earthquakes were felt, two of them very severe: one threw the sand up from the banks of the river Kamtchatka, and quite annihilated the snow; the Kliuchefska Sopka also
132 emitted flames and lava. The snow began to disappear at St. Peter and St. Paul's in the beginning of May. By the middle of the month one of the transports sailed from the port to Nishney Kamtchatsk, reaching it in five days; and by the latter



[in the winter of 1821-22--Analyst]